

Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-20

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8491

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: SGEN/PBOR/MX

SUBJ: ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS AND NEW POPULATION LAW

1. DURING LENGTHY APPEARANCE BEFORE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES OCTOBER 16, INTERIOR SECRETARY MOYA PALENCIA EXPLAINED AND DEFENDED PROPOSED NEW POPULATION LAW. BOTH IN HIS OPENING STATEMENT AND IN QUESTIONING WHICH FOLLOWED, MOYA FOCUSED ALMOST EXCLUSIVE ATTENTION ON THOSE ASPECTS OF LAW WHICH DEAL WITH DEMOGRAPHIC POLICY (ACTUALLY ONLY 6 OUT OF 123 ARTICLES.) THIS PART OF PRESENTATION BEING REPORTED BY SEPTEL.

2. QUERIED ABOUT HOW NEW LAW WILL DEAL WITH TROUBLESOME QUESTIONS OF EMIGRATION OF MEXICAN WORKERS TO US, MOYA REPLIED THAT GOM IS CONCERNED ABOUT MEXICAN PERCEPTION THAT LABOR MARKET PRESSURES IN SOUTHERN US RESULTS IN "MYOPIA" ON PART OF INS OFFICIALS WHO IGNORE ENTRY OF LARGE NUMBERS OF MIGRATORY WORKERS DURING HEIGHT OF CROP SEASON, ONLY TO "DISCOVER" AS MANY AS 500,000 ILLEGALS TO BE REMOVED AFTER HARVESTS ARE IN. HE FURTHER STATED THAT NEW LAW WOULD ADDRESS PROBLEM BY INVESTIGATING BASIC FACTORS GIVING RISE TO THIS PHENOMENON.

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NOVEDADES REPORTED MOYA AS HAVING SAID THAT GOM SEEKING

RENEWED AGREEMENT WITH USG TO ALLOW FOR ENTRY OF TEMPORARY WORKERS.

3. COMMENT: MOYA'S MOST RECENT STATEMENT REFLECTS HIS PREVIOUSLY ENUNCIATED POSITION THAT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ILLEGAL PROBLEM IS SHARED BY THE USG. PUBLIC REFERENCES TO "NEGOTIATIONS" AIMED AT SOME NEW "BRACERO" AGREEMENT, AS THOUGH FORMAL TALKS WERE TAKING PLACE, ARE BOUND TO AROUSE EXPECTATIONS ON THE PART OF THE MEXICAN PUBLIC. UNLESS GOM ABDNDONS THIS TACTIC AT AN EARLY DATE, USG RUNS RISK OF EVENTUALLY BEING PORTRAYED AS OBSTINATE IN NEGOTIATIONS. ACCORDINGLY, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO ISSUANCE OF A STATEMENT AT AN APPROPRIATELY HIGH WASHINGTON LEVEL CLARIFYING THAT WHILE PROBLEM OF ILLEGALS IS OF CONTINUING CONCERN, THERE ARE NO NEGOTIATIONS CONCERNING A RENEWED "BRACERO" AGREEMENT.
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